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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/773,071	02/05/2004	Hirotoshi Hara	OPS C-634	6046
23474	7590	03/21/2006	EXAMINER	
FLYNN THIEL BOUTELL & TANIS, P.C. 2026 RAMBLING ROAD KALAMAZOO, MI 49008-1631			RENNER, CRAIG A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2627	

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/773,071	HARA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Craig A. Renner	2652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 and 3-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2 and 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 05 February 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 05 February 2004.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

2. The drawings were received on 05 February 2004. These drawings are accepted.

Specification

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is not "within the range of 50 to 150 words." Appropriate correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In line 3 of claim 4, "the outsert-molding" is indefinite because it lacks clear and/or positive antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

9. Claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakayama (JP 10-256759).

Nakayama teaches a pickup mounting structure having a base plate member (2) made of base plate member material, provided with an opening (3) substantially rectangular in shape (as shown in FIG. 11, for instance, i.e., in as broad as the term

“substantially” may be construed), formed in the central part of the base plate member (as shown in FIG. 11, for instance), a pair of guide members (32a and 32b, for instance) set up so as to be parallel with each other (as shown in FIG. 11, for instance) with the opening sandwiched therebetween (as shown in FIG. 11, for instance) and each having both ends thereof, fixedly attached to one face of the base plate member (as shown in FIG. 11, for instance), and a pickup (6) slidably fitted to the guide members (as shown in FIG. 11, for instance) and movable inside the opening (as shown in FIG. 11, for instance); the pickup mounting structure comprising a rib (periphery of 40 shown in FIG. 1, for instance) integrally formed on the other face of the base plate member (as shown in FIG. 1, for instance), in such a way as to be protruded around the periphery of the opening (as shown in FIG. 1, for instance); and a holder (40) for holding a wiring cable (8) connected to the pickup (as shown in FIGS. 11-12, for instance), formed integrally with the rib so as to bridge across the opening (as shown in FIG. 1, for instance) [as per claim 1]; wherein a wiring cable fixture member (includes 42, for instance) made of a synthetic resin (paragraph [0039], for instance) is fitted to the holder (as shown in FIG. 1, for instance) [as per claims 3 and 4]; and wherein a plurality of pawls (42 and 43) are formed at respective positions of the wiring cable fixture member, on both sides of the wiring cable (as shown in FIG. 1, for instance), so as to be protruded, for holding a bent portion of the wiring cable (as shown in FIG. 1, for instance) [as per claim 5]. As the claims are directed to a “pickup mounting structure”, per se, the method limitation appearing in line 3 of claim 4 can only be accorded weight to the extent that it affects the structure of the completed pickup mounting structure. Note that “[d]etermination of

patentability in 'product-by-process' claims is based on product itself, even though such claims are limited and defined by process [i.e., "outsert-molding", for instance], and thus product in such claim is unpatentable if it is the same as, or obvious form, product of prior art, even if prior product was made by a different process", *In re Thorpe, et al.*, 227 USPQ 964 (CAFC 1985). Furthermore, note that a "[p]roduct-by-process claim, although reciting subject matter of claim in terms of how it is made [i.e., "outsert-molding", for instance], is still product claim; it is patentability of product claimed and not recited process steps that must be established, in spite of fact that claim may recite only process limitations", *In re Hirao and Sato*, 190 USPQ 685 (CCPA 1976).

Nakayama, however, remains silent as to the base plate member material being "metal." Official notice is taken of the fact that metal is a notoriously old and well known base plate member material in the art. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have had the base plate member material of Nakayama be metal. The rationale is as follows:

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to have had the base plate member material of Nakayama be metal since such is a notoriously old and well known base plate member material in the art, and since selecting a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use is within the level of ordinary skill in the art, *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416 (CCPA 1960).

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 2 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Craig A. Renner whose telephone number is (571) 272-7580. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday 9:00 AM - 7:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa T. Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Craig A. Renner
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2652

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